



For immediate release

Alzheimer's disease: The Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF) invests \$4.2M in GliPharm to advance its lead program

The ADDF invests \$4.2M to accelerate the development of GliPharm's lead compound through investigational new drug (IND)-enabling studies to gain approval for clinical testing in Alzheimer's disease.

Geneva, Switzerland, December 14, 2023 – [GliPharm SA](#), a biotech company that specializes in the research and development of novel therapies to treat and prevent neurological diseases, today announces the funding of its lead program in Alzheimer's disease by the [Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation \(ADDF\)](#), a non-profit organization dedicated to accelerating drug discovery and development in Alzheimer's disease.

"We are pleased to see our efforts supported by the ADDF, a global leader in Alzheimer's research," says Sylvain Lengacher, GliPharm's co-CEO and co-founder.

The ADDF will invest \$4.2 million to bring GliPharm's lead compound GP-119 to the clinical stage. GP-119 is a novel orally active small molecule that acts on brain energy metabolism.

"This comes as a strong validation for GliPharm's Alzheimer's program and a solid partner for future developments," adds Ambroise Magistretti, GliPharm's co-CEO and co-founder.

"While the brain is only about two percent of the body's weight, it consumes about a quarter of the body's energy in glucose stores, which is why it's believed that poor brain metabolism can lead to neurodegeneration," says Dr. Howard Fillit, Co-Founder and Chief Science Officer at the ADDF. "Developing new drugs that seek to regulate brain metabolism in the aging body like GliPharm's GP-119 are a promising approach for treating Alzheimer's and related dementias, as we hope to develop an arsenal of drugs that can stop the disease in its tracks through combination therapy and precision medicine."

One of the hallmarks of neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's, is a reduced glucose uptake in the brain, a condition known as hypometabolism. This metabolic decline occurs before symptoms arise and persists as the disease progresses. There are currently no specific treatments to address this problem in Alzheimer's disease.

"GliPharm's innovative therapeutic approach is to target glial cells, the cells primarily responsible for glucose uptake into brain, and increase energy delivery to the brain and enhance brain energy metabolism that is defective in pathological conditions such as Alzheimer's disease," says Prof. Pierre J. Magistretti, GliPharm's scientific founder.

The company is currently developing its lead candidate towards clinical testing through IND/CTA-enabling studies, which are mandatory to gain approval for clinical testing by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in the US, and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in Europe.

“The support from the ADDF will be key to advance our lead program through preclinical regulatory studies, which will be followed by clinical trials. We are enthusiastic about the ADDF’s strategy to support novel and potentially complementary therapeutic solutions for Alzheimer’s disease, including our own approach to tackle brain hypometabolism,” says Dr. Charles Finsterwald, GliaPharm’s CSO and co-founder.

About GliaPharm

GliaPharm is a Swiss biotech company that develops innovative approaches to treat neurological and psychiatric disorders. GliaPharm was created in 2016 as a spinoff company from the laboratory of Prof. Pierre Magistretti at the Swiss federal institute of technology (EPFL, Switzerland), a leading research laboratory in the field of brain metabolism and glial cell biology. GliaPharm has established a pipeline of compounds through its in-house proprietary drug discovery platform focused on glial cell function. These compounds aim at promoting brain energy metabolism by specifically targeting glial cells.

GliaPharm has developed know-how and a platform to characterize glial cells, to develop a pipeline of active molecules and to evaluate the potential of several therapeutic solutions. The company has a project in an orphan monogenic disease with marked brain hypometabolism called GLUT1-deficiency syndrome, as well as other larger indications with brain hypometabolism, including Alzheimer's disease. www.gliapharm.com

About The Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF)

Founded in 1998 by Leonard A. and Ronald S. Lauder, the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation is dedicated to rapidly accelerating the discovery of drugs to prevent, treat and cure Alzheimer's disease. The ADDF is the only public charity solely focused on funding the development of drugs for Alzheimer's, employing a venture philanthropy model to support research in academia and the biotech industry. The ADDF's leadership and contributions to the field have played a pivotal role in bringing the first Alzheimer's PET scan (Amyvid®) and blood test (PrecivityAD®) to market, as well as fueling the current robust and diverse drug pipeline. Through the generosity of its donors, the ADDF has awarded more than \$270 million to fund over 730 Alzheimer's drug development programs, biomarker programs and clinical trials in 19 countries. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.alzdiscovery.org/>.

[GliaPharm was advised by sigma legal on the legal aspects of the transaction with the ADDF.](#)

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